

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03

NEA-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 USIA-15

TRSE-00 MBFR-04 SAJ-01 SS-15 NSC-10 DRC-01 /110 W

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P R 181806Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7496

SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USNMR SHAPE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 13499

SHAPE FOR INTAF: DEPT ALSO PASS TO TREASURY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, GW, US, MCAP, NATO

SUBJECT: FRG DEFENSE MINISTRY VIEWS ON BURDEN SHARING,  
OFFSET AND FORCE IMPROVEMENTS

REF: BONN 12729

1. DURING SEPT 18 MEETING WITH PM/ISP DIRECTOR BROWN  
AND EMBOFF, DEFENSE MINISTRY ASSISTANT SECRETARY WIECK  
CONFIRMED GERMAN POSITION ON BURDEN SHARING, OFFSET,  
FORCE IMPROVEMENTS AND INFRASTRUCTURE FUND OUTLINED BY  
FONOFF REP IN BONN 12729. LIKE FONOFF SOURCE, WIECK  
INDICATED THAT FRG "BURDEN SHARING" EMPHASIS WILL BE  
ON BILATERAL OFFSET AGREEMENT AND ON POSSIBLE PICKING  
UP WITH OTHER EUROPEAN ALLIES OF PORTION OF U.S. SHARE  
IN INFRASTRUCTURE FUND. WIECK

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NOTED THAT NATO BURDEN SHARING STUDY GROUP LACKED TERMS OF REFERENCE AND SAID ITS PROSPECTS WERE DIM. WIECK AGAIN STRESSED THAT OTHER EUROPEAN ALLIES WERE NOT READY TO JOIN MULTILATERAL FUND, THAT FRG WOULD NOT CARRY THE BURDEN ALONE AMONG EUROPEAN ALLIES AND THAT MULTILATERAL APPROACH ENTAILS DANGER THAT OTHER EUROPEAN PARTNERS ALSO MIGHT MAKE DEMAND ON FRG FOR RELIEF OF MILITARILY ATTRIBUTABLE BOP DEFICITS. WIECK SAID SUCH DEMANDS WOULD BE TOTALLY UNACCEPTABLE.

2. HAVING CONFIRMED THIS POSITION, WIECK SAID HE WISHED TO INFORM US OF THE SURPRISE CAUSED AMONG MANY GERMAN OFFICIALS BY THE U.S. STATEMENT THAT SEVENTY PERCENT OF THE NET U.S. 1.4 BILLION BOP DEFICIT ON MILITARY ACCOUNT COMES FROM STATIONING FORCES IN THE FRG (SEE STUDY GROUP ON FINANCIAL PROBLEMS ARISING FROM THE STATIONING OF FORCES ON THE TERRITORY OF OTHER NATO FORCES - AC/291-WP(3)1, NATO CONFIDENTIAL, 3RD REV SEPT 3, 1973, PP 5-6). NOTWITHSTANDING SUBSEQUENT "PASSING REFERENCE" THAT THIS SEVENTY PERCENT FIGURE DID NOT INCLUDE OFFSET AGREEMENTS, WIECK SAID THIS PASSAGE CAUSED CONSIDERABLE DISMAY IN BONN GIVEN EIGHTY PERCENT OFFSET IN LAST BILATERAL AGREEMENT, FACT THAT MOST OF REMAINING TWENTY PERCENT FLOWS BACK TO U.S., GERMAN BUNDESBANK RESTRAINT IN RECENT DOLLAR CRISES AND POLITICAL COMMITMENT MADE BY CHANCELLOR BRANDT TO OFFSET IN THE FACE OF LEFT-WING SPD AND JUSO CRITICISM. FURTHER, SAID WIECK, THE FRG ALSO HAS PARLIAMENTARY PRESSURES ON OFFSET. THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT THIS WEEK WOULD HAVE TO REPLY TO A BUNDESTAG INQUIRY SAYING THAT LEADING U.S. CONGRESSIONAL MEMBERS WERE NOT AWARE OF THE FRG MILITARY AND FINANCIAL (I.E., OFFSET) CONTRIBUTION AND ASKING WHETHER THIS LACK OF INFORMATION MIGHT ENCOURAGE ADVOCATES OF UNILATERAL U.S. TROOP CUTS.

3. IN SUMMARIZING, WIECK SAID HIS MAIN POINT WAS THAT THE U.S. AND FRG, AS THE PRINCIPAL SUPPORTERS OF NATO, WERE BOTH INTERESTED IN ELICITING THE MATERIAL SUPPORT  
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OF OTHER ALLIES AND THUS SHOULD AVOID CONFRONTATIONS AT NATO. INSTEAD, BONN AND WASHINGTON SHOULD PRESS FOR THE OTHER ALLIES TO DO THEIR FAIR SHARE.  
HILLENBRAND

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